

Amendment
USSN 09/605,882

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application.

In response to the restriction requirement stated in the Office Action dated April 12, 2002, Applicants hereby elect Group II, claims 2 - 5, with traverse. In response to the election requirement, Applicants elect claim 4.

Applicants disagree with the examiner's interpretation of "plasma torch type", but in any event the claims have been amended such that all of claims 2-7 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1.


Further examination is now respectfully requested.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

2. (Amended) A method of fabricating an optical fiber preform including an operation of glazing the outside surface of said preform using [inductive heating means of the] a plasma torch [type] as recited in claim 1 for localized heating of the preform, in which method a flow of gas between the plasma and said preform in the area of the outside surface of said preform on which said plasma impinges reduces the power of said plasma in said area.

6. (Amended) A system for fabricating an optical fiber preform, said system including:
means for holding said preform at both ends,
[inductive heating means of the] a plasma torch [type] as recited in claim 1 for localized heating of said perform, wherein said perform is said target,
means for rotating said preform about its longitudinal axis,
means for moving said preform relative to said plasma torch in the direction parallel to said axis, and
means for injecting a gas between said preform and the plasma produced by said torch in the area of the outside surface of said preform on which said plasma impinges.